AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR

AND

Literary Gazette.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE BOOK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Conducted under the direction of the Association, by CHARLES R. RODE.

Communications should be addressed to THE AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR, *No. 6 Appletons' Building, 346 Broadway.*

VOL. V.—NO. XIII. NEW YORK, MARCH 26, 1859. PRICE $2 A YEAR.

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CONDUCTED BY CHARLES R. RODE,

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To Advertisers.

Especial inducements are offered to advertisers for the next three weeks, before and during the Trade Sales.

NOTICE TO BOOKSELLERS.

We propose to publish, during the present year, a *complete list of all booksellers in the United States and Canada*, and for that purpose invite the assistance of publishers and booksellers wherever located. We shall take it as an especial favor if our subscribers will communicate the names of all booksellers doing business in their respective localities, and we shall be much obliged to any publishers, who, having new lists, will permit us to compare them with the names we already possess. The names when prepared will be printed in the AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR and furnished gratuitously to our subscribers. The want of an accurate list has long been a source of annoyance to publishers, and of inconvenience to many booksellers, to whom trade-lists and circulars would otherwise have been addressed; while the best that could be obtained have been the work of much labor and expense, and have been kept for the exclusive use of their owners. We propose undertaking the task for the benefit of our readers, who will thus be enabled to obtain a correct list of all booksellers in the United States and Canada without any cost whatever.

We beg to acknowledge our obligations to those correspondents who have kindly complied with our request and forwarded lists.

Literary Intelligence.

FRANK MOORE, Esq., whose "Diary of the American Revolution" we not long since announced as in press, has had the good fortune to come across the Journal of Col. Smythe of the Queen's Rangers.

TARIFF ON ENGLISH BOOKS.—In our issue of the 12th inst., we copied from the LONDON PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR a statement that "certain influential booksellers in the United States" had made an effort "to raise the duty on the importation of English books, from 8 per cent. as at present, to 30 per cent." This was entirely new to us, and, as since appears, to many booksellers whose influence and position are unquestioned; and we are glad to be able to state that the charge appears to be without foundation. Our cotemporary has placed too much reliance upon its authority.

A LITERARY PUBLISHER.—Dr. Challen has devoted forty-five years to literary pursuits. His special department in the already eminent house which bears his name, is to examine the literary character of all works presented to the firm for publication, and to indicate the style in which such as are approved should be gotten up, whether with or without illustrations, etc. How well he has acquitted himself of this task is sufficiently evident from the fact that there is scarcely one of the Messrs. J. C. & Son's books which has not attracted attention in Europe as well as in America.—*Home Journal.*

PROPOSED DUTY ON BOOKS IN CANADA.—The following communication concerning the proposed duty on books, imported into Canada, will be of interest to the American Trade. We append the petition of the Booksellers of Toronto in which the principal objections are set forth.

To the Editor of the American Publishers' Circular.

TORONTO, March 15, 1859.

SIR,—As the readiest mode of communicating the fact to the American Publishing Trade, I send you herewith a number of documents, written in opposition to the proposed duty on books (under a new Canadian Tariff) of ten per cent. *ad valorem*, which for many years have been free. These remonstrances from the Booksellers of Toronto and Montreal, and from three individual writers in this city, (Messrs. A. H. Armour, Maclear & Co., and James Campbell,) have not led to any abandonment of the duty proposed on books. But it is understood that the Inspector-General will place the Educational Book depot under Dr. Ryerson's charge in the same category as the Trade, and that books intended for it will pay duty like other book-stores,—as is but just.

A TORONTO BOOKSELLER.

JOHN C. GEIKIE, BOOKSELLER AND IMPORTER, 61 KING STREET, TORONTO, C. W.

PETITION OF THE BOOKSELLERS OF TORONTO.

To His Excellency the Governor General, the Hon. the Legislative Council, and the Hon. the Legislative Assembly.

The petition of the undersigned booksellers of Toronto, humbly sheweth:

That your petitioners desire to draw the attention of your Honorable House to that part of the proposed tariff relative to books, which, if it should become law, would throw the book business of Canada back many years.

That the population of Canada being small, and composed of two races, speaking different languages, the circulation of books is necessarily limited, and requires fostering from your Honorable House rather than taxation.

That the article of books, (with the exception of a few school books) cannot be manufactured in this Province to pay, even were English, French, and American publications prohibited. In proof of this, we would venture to assert that with scarcely an exception no book on law, medicine, history, biography, poetry, fiction, or the mechanical arts, written and published in Canada, has ever paid the author and publisher for the labor and capital expended upon it, much less yielded a profit, the few which have been to some extent successful having been of only local interest, and if not published here, would not have appeared at all.

The school books (for which there is a large circulation), are published here as cheap as the same class of books can be imported from either England or the United States, proving clearly that Canadian publishers do not require protection.

That your Honorable House has given annual grants to Educational Establishments, Public Libraries, etc., in order to create and foster a taste for literature, whereas, imposing a duty on books would increase their price and greatly retard their circulation.

That in the Province of Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, books are admitted duty free—and they trust that Canada will not be the first to impose a tax on the spread of knowledge.

That the collection of a duty would operate to the breaking up of the legitimate bookselling trade in Canada, and would tend to throw it into the hands of the frontier booksellers of the United States. The more intelligent of our population visit the United States so frequently that they would be induced to supply themselves in the cheapest market, besides the book post would then become a positive injustice to the trade. And, moreover, that the superintendents of education having the privilege of importing books free it would result that they would supply all the Schools, Mechanics' Institutes, and Public Libraries, which would still further tend to ruin the bookseller's business without adding to the revenue of the Province.

That your petitioners feel confident that it is only necessary to call the attention of your Honorable House to this matter, and pray that a law which would be found injurious to the true interests of all sections of the Province may not be passed. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray. Signed,

Henry Rowsell.	James Carless.
Andrew H. Armour & Co.	John Edwards.
Maclear & Co.	Wiman & Co.
John C. Geikie.	Magnus Shewan.
R. McPhail.	William Reid, Secretary U. C.
T. Maclear.	Religious Tract Society.
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A similar petition from the booksellers of Montreal was signed by Messrs.

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